

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



The Whaleback © Peter Stekel, used with permission.

Review safety tips on page 5, and take a map and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going — you are on your own in the woods! Remove coolers and odorous items from cars before you leave them.

GRANT GROVE



GENERAL GRANT TREE: One of the five largest living trees in the world, the Nation's Christmas Tree, and a National Shrine. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the

Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP: Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. Trailers and RVs not recommended on this steep, narrow road. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: Begin just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) southeast of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and the High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON: One of the world's largest sequoia groves. Acres of rejuvenating forest result from 30 years of prescribed fires, showing the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/ Hume Lake junction (6 miles/9.6 km south of Grant Grove), turn south/west at Redwood Saddle. Go right for 2 miles (3.2 km) on a bumpy dirt road.

BIG BALDY: Great views and a look down into Redwood Canyon from this ridge. The trail winds 2 miles (3.2 km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502 m). From Grant Grove, drive 8 miles

(13 km) south on the Generals Highway to Big Baldy Trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183 m); round trip 4 miles (6.4 km).

REDWOOD CANYON OVERLOOK: About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this looks west over one of the world's largest groves of sequoias. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

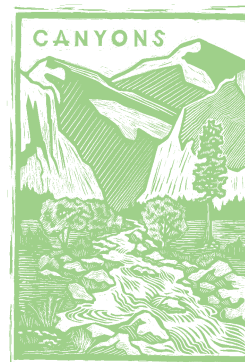
KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK: For a view to the northeast of the High Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove.

KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

The road into this spectacular gorge closes November 7 to late April. Be careful near the river!

CANYON VIEW:

The "U" shape of Kings Canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village turnoff.



KNAPP'S CABIN: During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady five-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. East of the Village turnoff 3 miles (4.8 km). Paved, accessible with assistance.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. Park at trailhead 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village turnoff. Purchase a trail guide at the trailhead or visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

ROAD'S END: Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).

MIST FALLS: Follow the river through forest to one of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 8 miles (12.8 km) round

trip. Fairly flat at first; a 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End.

DON CECIL TRAIL: The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. This steep trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs the north-facing canyon wall past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up). Lookout Peak (13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts 0.2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it climbs through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook. Great views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Allow 3-4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. Ask rangers for details.

CONVERSE BASIN: The largest-known sequoia grove, most of its mature sequoias were felled early in the 1900s. Walk a 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to see the Chicago Stump, remnant of the General Noble Tree cut for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 2 miles, then left on the graded dirt road (FR 13S03). Or walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared; take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 5 miles, then left on the graded dirt road (FR 13S55).

INDIAN BASIN: Logged a century ago, this recovering forest and meadow look quite different today. Walk the one-mile, accessible trail; take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Turn left between the campground host site and the dump station.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water for a flume that floated lumber to Sanger, 67 miles (108 km) below. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail encircles it. See page 9 for recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. From Generals Highway, go ~6 miles (9.6 km) on Big Meadows Road (FR 14S11) then Forest Road 13S04.